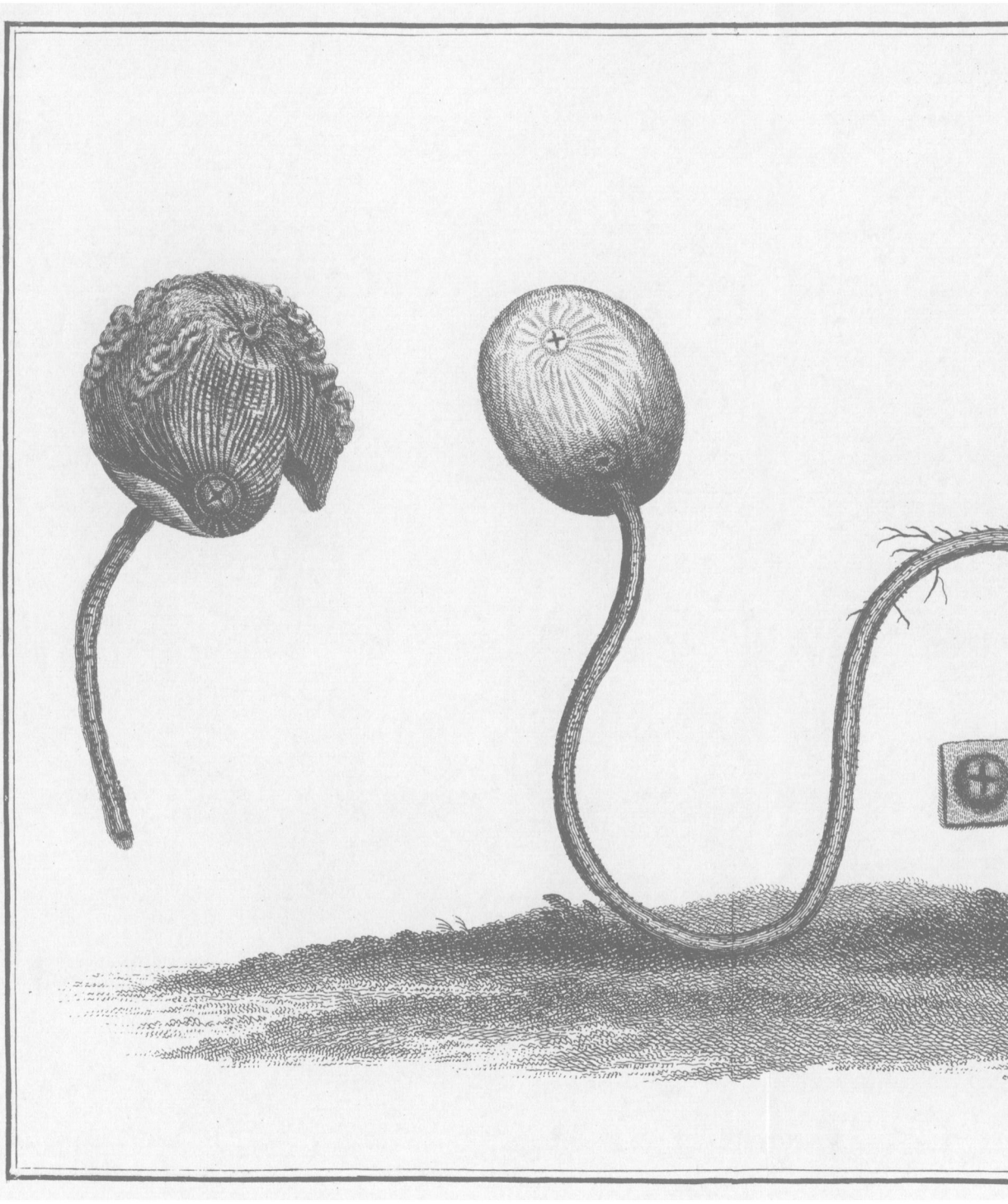
mium L non aperiatur, adeoque aër in ſtatu compreſſionis maneat, aperto tunc C et E, ventus per E prorumpet, celeritate, qua 78 pedes in minuto ſecundo conficeret. Hinc ros, congelationi proximus, in grandinem, et ad ſuperficiem pilei, in glaciem, compingitur: non differt vero grando à glacie, niſi figura rotundiore, frequenti colliſione acquiſita, et interdum nive intermixta.

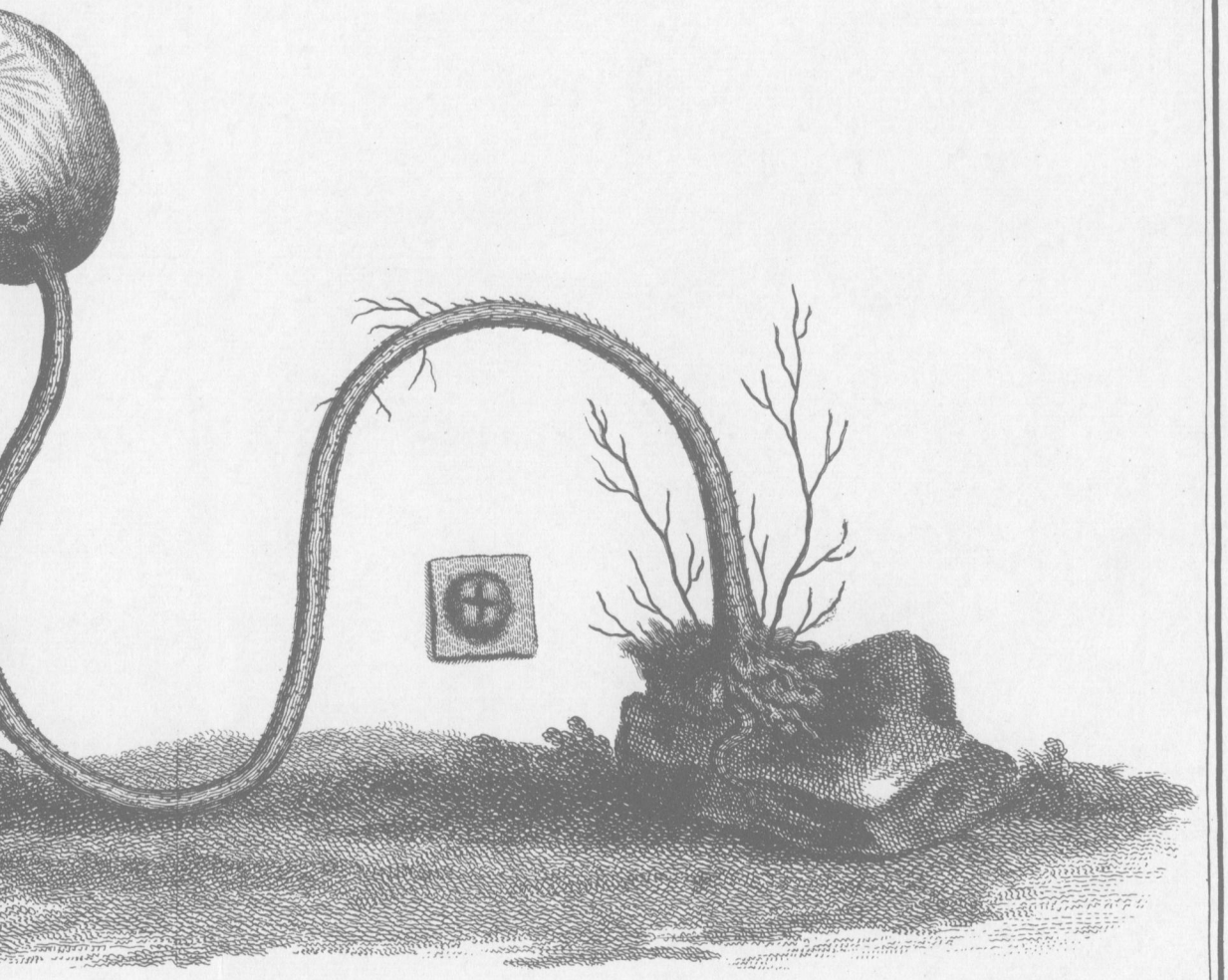
Hæc perantiqua congelationis theoria mihi quidem abunde ſufficere videtur omnibus phænomenis explicandis, ut electricitate vel alia quadam novitate non indigeat.

XCII. *An Account of a remarkable Marine Production: In a Letter to the Reverend* Thomas Birch, *D. D. Secretary to the Royal Society, from* Alexander Ruſſell, *M. D. Phyſician to* St. Thomas's *Hoſpital, and F. R. S.*

SIR,

Read June 24, 1762. MY ingenious friend Dr. James Naſmyth, having been ſo kind as to ſend me a marine production, which appears to be ſingular, I thought ſome account of it would not be unacceptable to the Royal Society. I have therefore troubled you with the incloſed papers, containing an extract of Dr. Naſmyth's letter; a deſcription of the body, as it appeared upon the joint examination of Dr. Solander, Meſſieurs Peter Collinſon, John Ellis, and





J. Mynde sc.

and nſelf, ſeveral months after I received it; together ith two drawings by Mr. Edwards; [*Vide Tab.* VII.] one of which repreſents it entire, nearly of its natural ſize and colour; the other after it was opene.

I am,

S I R,

Your moſt obedient

humble ſervant,

Wbrook,
June o, 1762.. Alexander Ruſſell.

Extract from Dr. Naſmyth's *Letter.*

AT my return from North America, in November 1759, I ſent you two or three articles picked up in hat country. One of theſe, from its ſingular apperance, and from its being a perfect ſtranger to evry body (both French and Engliſh) that ſaw it, I mſt now recommend to your attention.

The deſire of keeping it entire, and as it was found, prvented any other inveſtigation, than that of viewing it particularly, when I firſt got it, and at times aterwards, to be aſſured of its ſafety, as well as to oſerve the changes it might undergo, while it contnued in ſpirits. From you, Sir, at your leiſure, I ſlall be extremely glad to receive farther information. In the mean time, I ſhall give you the circumſtances atending its acquiſition.

In

In the month of June 1759, the ſquadron deſtined againſt Quebec, arrived in the river St. Lavence, when, being in the latitude 49. 50. north, and about ten leagues to the eaſtward of Anticoſti, (an iſland in the mouth of the river) we ſounded, and struck ground in 42 fathoms; the ſoundings white ſand and black ſpecks. Having, at the ſame time, thrown overboard a fiſhing-line, the hook was found ſtrongly attached at the bottom; and, after ſome efforts, brought up a piece of rock into the ſurface of which was inſerted a ſtrong tendinous ſubſtance, of a light brown colour, in length about ſeven inches; it was round, and nearly of the thickneſs of a common gooſe-quill; the other end formed a ſack, or bag, of the ſize and ſhape of a pigeon's egg.

The whole of this ſubſtance was elaſtic; and, upon preſſing the bag, I plainly diſcovered a contained ſubſtance, and imagined, that it was attended with motion.

Theſe, Sir, are all the particulars I have got to offer upon this unknown ſubject: whether animal, zoophite, or ſubmarine plant, I leave to your determination.

[Thus far Dr. Naſmyth.]

Upon our examination, it appeared to us to come neareſt to what has been, by naturaliſts, called Priapus; give us leave, therefore, to name it Priapis pendunculo filiformi corpore ovato. The body was oval, and in ſize between a pigeon and pullet's egg, ſmooth, membranous, and of a ſilver aſh colour. What appeared to be the mouth, was ſituated a little below the apex, and was quadrivalvular, in the form

of

of a (✠) croſs. The anus was on the ſame ſide, a little above the baſe, or inſertion of the ſtalk, and alſo quadrivalvular. Towards the aperture of the mouth and anus, the body felt more callous. From this body iſſued a peduncle, or ſtalk, of ten inches in length, the extreme end of which was fixed to a piece of rock. This ſtalk was of a light brown colour, about the thickneſs of a large hen's quill, round, hollow, rough, and of a membranous, leather-like ſubſtance.

When the body was opened, the internal coat appeared to be compoſed of reticular fibres. The interior orifice of the mouth was ſurrounded by a radiated ſubſtance, about the ſize of a ſilver penny, thicker and more callous than the coats of any other part. The internal aperture of the anus was compoſed of fibres interwoven with one another. From the apex to the baſe, on each ſide, deſcended obliquely, and winding, a ſmooth ſolid body, in width about one fifth part of an inch, part of which ſeparated in the examining; ſo that it is but imperfectly repreſented in the drawing. We cannot give a clearer idea of this body, than by ſaying, that it had greatly the appearance (excepting in ſize) of one of the ſmall inteſtines, and was attached to the interior ſurface of the main body, much in the way as they are to the meſentery.